3:Beals, Carrasco & McCorkle E-5 (1940-1942) 1944
NU34 Tarasco NU34
Sierra Tarascans

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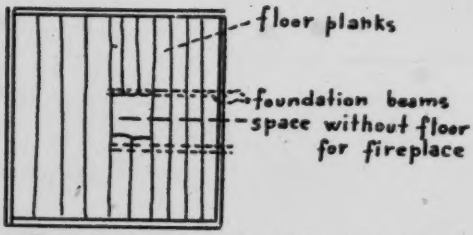

FIGURE 11.—Plan of floor of an elaborate kitchen (seen only in Paracho).

structures are at the entrance to the lot, but may also be inside (pl. 6, middle (right) and lower (left)). Two beams connect pairs of posts and a floor of planks is laid across these. Upon the planks rest four "*planchas*," supporting a roof similar to that of the "*troje*." The entrance is either through the floor or one of the gable ends. The floor plan is always rectangular.

[354]

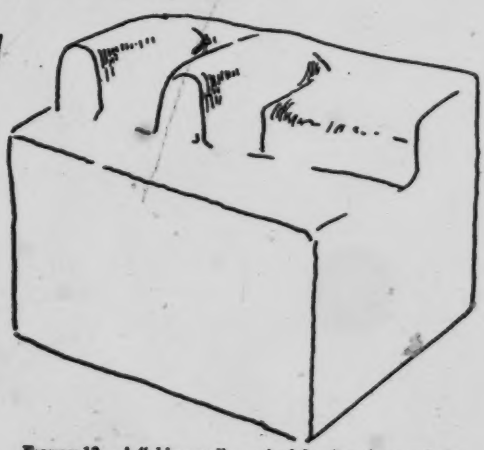

FIGURE 12.—A "*chimarra*," or raised fireplace (seen only in Paracho).

In Angahuan, the lower part of these structures is often walled and the structure then serves the function of a "*troje*." Often the walls are made simply of shakes or old boards, but sometimes the posts rest on foundation beams and the wall planks are well fitted (pl. 6, lower, center). In this case, the floor plan is square and, except for this, the structure is a "*troje*." Such square structures have a wide distribution and are called "*trojes*" in some towns, such as Paracho, but in Parícutin

[p. 16 b]

343 Sheds are usually built leaning against a house
335 or wall. They consist ordinarily of only a sloping roof of shakes supported by a crude home-made framework. The upper end of the roof rests against the house or wall, the lower end is supported by posts. A great variety of crudely built structures is found, serving for hen houses, barns, storage of fodder, or toilets. Crude roofs called "*pestaña*" are also built over entrances to houses and kitchens (pl. 2, upper).

343 Many houses have pigpens made of poles.
231 These often have an entrance directly from the street which can be closed from inside. As a rule pigs roam the streets during the day. At night they must be penned carefully, especially in the outskirts of town. Otherwise, coyotes may kill them.

● 354 In some house yards there are large domed
[427] ovens, used primarily for making bread. They are often rented to bakers who do not have ovens. The construction is mostly of adobe but sometimes stone is used about the entrance and in foundations. A rough shake roof supported by poles protects the oven from the rain.

343 Temporary shades (ónjetarakua) are built of poles and covered with branches and grass for use in weddings and fiestas.

SPECIALIZATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF SKILLS

463 distribution of skills difficult. The following list of specialists, then, merely gives those who make a major part of their living from the specialty indicated. In some cases, the individuals no doubt get all their living from their professional occupation; in others, they either farm themselves, do farm work, or are employing farmers.

Carpenters	9
Masons	5
Brick and tile makers	2

The above represents a fairly accurate census of those men in Cherán who have special skills and who would be hired for work in their field by others if possible. To put it another way, the average man would recognize that one of these specialists would do a more competent and finished job than he could do himself; consequently, any ordinary man would make some sacrifices to employ these

343 room, the number depending upon the economic
352 status of the family. They are rarely used except to seat visitors. Tin trunks or wooden chests are usually found for storage of clothing. Clothing may also be hung on a pole extending from front to back wall. A sewing machine is a fairly common item of equipment. Rather rarely, the room will contain a wooden bedstead; this again is used

[404]

[354]

FIGURE 15.—Fire hearth of stones. *a*, Space for pots; *b*, space for *comal*.

only for guests, when mats are spread over the bed. In emergencies, the room may also be used for the storage of harvests. A portion of the veranda may also be boarded for this purpose. The second floor is customarily used to store maize on the cob.

[p. 22a]

354 The kitchen always has a hearth on the ground, usually made with six stones (paráŋgua), arranged as in figure 15. Infrequently, the hearth or stove is of clay (fig. 16). Space is provided for three fire places, one (fig. 15, *b*) for the *comal* or tortilla baking dish, and two (*a*–*a*) for cooking pots. This hearth is usually at one side of the structure.

[373] Near the fire a branched stick (čuríŋgu) is set in the ground; on this stick pitch-pine splinters (k'uerámu) are burned for light at night. At the back of the kitchen are one or two shelves, "*tinajera*," (plátu jatákua). On the upper are the old ollas and large vessels. On the bottom are new ollas (pureči), plates (plátu), jars (iɕámatarakua), wooden spoons (ioɾésa), and knives (kučó). Below the shelves on the ground, are the three-legged metates (iauári), *molcajetes* (jiúmatakua), *comales* (eróksa), and large water jugs (k'amúkua), including one set on a fiber ring (uanɕári) containing drinking water. Also on the ground are baskets (ɕakiáta), tortilla baskets ("tascal," kuatása), and gourds (uɾáni). Either on the floor or on the shelf may be wooden bowls (batiečа), other types of baskets (ɕakiáta kanímu and šúndi, "*chúndi*"), and fire fans (p'unítatarakua). All the manufactured articles are imported.

[439] 352 The metate, when in use, is placed on a plank beside the fire. At night, it is removed and mats [513] are spread out for sleeping.

[p. 22 b]

3: Beals, Carrasco & McCorkle E-5 (1940-1942)1944 NU34 Tarasco NU34
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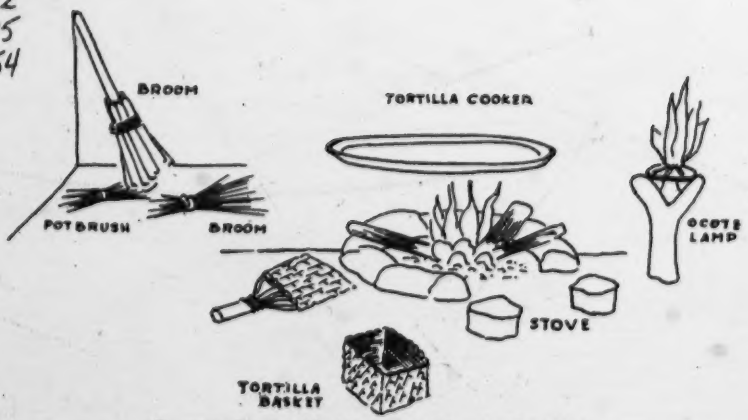

FIGURE 16.—Utensils and furnishings commonly found in a Cherán kitchen.

are spread out for sleeping. The women sit on the ground in kneeling position; the men either sit on their heels or on low wooden benches (burítu) or low chairs (uašánʒakua). In Paricutin, Ihuatzio, and some other towns, the benches are carved in zoomorphic forms. Hanging from the roof may be a shingle or small board on which to place small objects (sársu, *zarzo*). One or more wooden hooks (tirípatarakua) may hang from the ceiling. These and other items are illustrated in figures 16 and 17.

Usually outside the house there is one or more wooden troughs used for water storage (fig. 18).

In the Lake region, the furniture is similar, but the clear-cut distinction in the use of structures is lacking. Often one room serves all purposes. If a separate kitchen exists, it may be just a lean-to against a wall of the house, open, or with adobe walls. The use of the raised fireplace,

[Continued on p. 24a]

ECONOMICS OF THE TARASCAN HOUSE

THE LOT

Lot prices vary considerably in Cherán. At the present time, the tendency is to sell lots by front footage in the central area, but square meters (39.3 in.²) are sometimes used as a base for prices also. In the case of lower-priced lots, probably the price is not set in terms of any specific area or frontage, but is the subject of discussion and ultimate agreement. In general, lots (without buildings) which front on the main street were valued in 1940 at 25 pesos a meter (39.3 in.). On the outskirts of the town prices were about 10 to 12 pesos a meter (39.3 in.).

WOODEN HOUSES

COST OF MATERIALS

The following tabulation presents the cost of those materials which ordinarily are purchased according to various estimates. Variations in price are partly due to differences in size and quality, partly to the bargaining skill of the buyer, partly to the need of the vender to sell.

Pine planks, per doz., f. o. b.[1]	*Price in pesos*
Seven-sers (6.44-m.) planks 15 inches wide, 3 inches thick, dozen	6. 60
Range of other estimates	7. 00–9. 00
Delivery charge, heavy planks, per dozen	7. 00

[1] Price is about the same for 1-inch planks, which are shorter and must be sawed, and long 3-inch planks, which are adzed.

3:Beals, Carrasco & McCorkle E-5 (1940-1942) 1944
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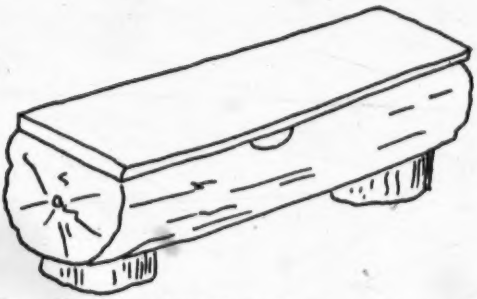

FIGURE 18.—Hollowed log with wooden cover used for storage of water outdoors.

354 "*chimenea*," is more common, and there often is also a special fireplace for the comal, a circular ridge of clay with an opening on one side to feed the fire similar to that shown for Cherán in figure 16.

ECONOMICS OF THE

TARASCAN HOUSE

	Price in pesos
435 Heavy square beams, each, f. o. b.	1. 50–2. 50
Delivery charge, each	1. 50
342 Veranda pillars, each, f. o. b.	1. 25–2. 00
Delivery charge, each	1. 25–1. 50
Shakes, bundle of 400	5. 00
Rafter poles, dozen	4. 00
Roof stringers, dozen	2. 50
Trap door	1. 50–3. 00
Door	2. 00–8. 00
Foundation stones, delivered average (2. 50 each)	9. 00–22. 50
Nails, per kilo	1. 00

Planks at Paracho were more costly in January 1942. Boards, six *varas* long, cost 0.75 to 1.25 pesos each, depending on width. Heavy planks cost according to length:

Length in *varas*:	Price in pesos
5	1. 50
6	1. 75
7	2. 00
8	2. 50
9	3. 00

Shakes, 5 *cuartas* (40 in.) in length; cost, 6 pesos per bundle of 400 (irépeta).

COST OF CONSTRUCTION

Table 3 represents the most accurate account secured of the materials, labor, and costs of a wooden house, or "*troje*." This house was built in July 1940 at Morelos 31. Its outside dimensions were 16 by 14 feet (6 by 5.2 *varas*), and it was raised off the ground about 18 inches (46 cm.)

[p. 24 b]

[364] only on the days preceding a town fiesta. The 653 householder is also expected to work on certain community enterprises, such as repairing roads or bridges and the water system. Likewise, unless 625 he occupies some special position which exempts him, or is well along in years, he will be expected at times to join the *ronda*, or night watch, which polices his *cuartel*, or *barrio*.

Cherán is unique in its attitude toward visitors. 351 We have already mentioned the general occurrence of fences. These are usually high enough to prevent passers-by on the street from peering into the house yard. Visitors always knock at the 574 gate or call out, announcing themselves. As some- 609 times the inmates will not respond to a knock, the call is useful in getting a response. Unless the visitor is a relative, *compadre*, or neighbor

[Continued on p.326]

RELATION OF THE TARASCAN HOUSE TO THE ENVIRONMENT
CHERÁN

362 The wooden house, or "*troje*," of Cherán is relatively dry but, in the absence of any method of heating, it is uncomfortably cold most of the year, especially at night. The kitchen floor is [354] frequently damp; although it is heated by fire, ventilation is inadequate, and the smoke often irritating to eyes and throat. On windy days, also, drafts whistle through cracks or under the lower edges of the walls. The masonry-adobe type of construction also presents drawbacks. It is not heated either and, while wind is less apt to penetrate, it is often unsatisfactorily ventilated. Moreover, the dampness climbs up through the walls at least 6 months of every year and into every corner of the room.

251 Probably the "*troje*," or house loft, can most easily be made impervious to rodents if it be well 362 built, and if bunches of cactus be fastened at strategic points on the outside walls. Rarely, however, is this true. In addition, the roof often permits entry of birds, particularly half-wild domesticated pigeons, and scarcely ever is anything done to prevent their forays on the maize. It is doubtful if the masonry-adobe structure is superior in any respect for loft storage. For main-floor storage it probably is inferior owing to the greater dampness. [Continued bottom of

[p.324] page 326]